What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for generating electronic documents, comprising the steps of:

receiving data from at least one application program;

dividing the data into text data and graphics data;

5    generating at least one first file for storing at least a portion of the text data or graphics data.

2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the step of dividing the data into text data and graphics data further comprises:

separating a text portion of the text data from a glyph portion of the text data.

10    3. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating at least one first file comprises generating at least three files.

4. The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein at least one of the at least three files comprises an XML file.

5. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, comprising the further step of:

15    permitting a user to specify at least one property of the at least one first file before the at least one first file is generated.

6. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein said at least one property comprises a location for the at least one file.

7. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein said at least one property comprises security information for the at least one file.

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8. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein said at least one property comprises a template type for the at least one file.

9. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the step of dividing the data comprises:

transmitting the data to a parser to determine if the data is text data or graphics
10     data; and,

transmitting the data to a formatter to determine the optimal format for the data.

10. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, comprising the further step of:
transmitting the data to a file manager after the data is divided but before said
15     at least one first file is generated.

11. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the at least one application program comprises a word processing program.

12.    The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the at least one file comprises:

a text portion in XML format, if the data received from the at least one application program includes text data; and,

5        a graphics portion, if the data received from the at least one application program includes graphics data.

13.    The computer-implemented method of claim 12, wherein the at least one file further comprises:

a glyph and font portion in XSL format, if the data received from the at least one application program includes text data.

14.    The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the at least one file has a first file format which is different from a file format of the file format of the at least one application program.

15.    A computer system comprising:

15        at least one server; and,

at least one user computer coupled to the at least one server through a network,

wherein the at least one server computer includes at least one program stored therein, said program performing the following steps:

receiving data from at least one application program;

20        dividing the data into text data and graphics data; and,

generating at least one first file for storing at least a portion of the text data and graphics data.

16.  A computer system comprising:

at least one server computer; and,

5          at least one user computer coupled to the at least one server computer through a network;

wherein the at least one server computer and the at least one user computer each include at least one program stored therein for allowing the at least one server computer and the at least one user computer to communicate information over the

10        network, said programs operating in conjunction with one another to perform the following steps:

receiving data from at least one application program;

dividing the data into text data and graphics data; and,

generating at least one first file for storing at least a portion of the text data

15        and graphics data.

17.  A computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program for processing by a machine, the computer program comprising:

a first code segment for receiving data from at least one application program;

a second code segment for dividing the data into text data and graphics data;

20        and,

a third code segment for generating at least one first file for storing at least a portion of the text data and graphics data.

18. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:

    a first code segment for receiving data from at least one application program;

    a second code segment for dividing the data into text data and graphics data; and,

5        a third code segment for generating at least one first file for storing at least a portion of the text data and graphics data.

19. A computer system comprising:

    an operating system operating on at least one computer;

    an application program operating on said at least one computer;

10       an additional program for handling print requests from the application program using the operating system, said additional program manipulating at least one data stream generated by the application program to create a format independent document.

15       20. The computer system of claim 19, wherein the additional program includes:

    a parser component for separating text data from graphics data;

    a formatter component for formatting the text data or graphics data; and,

    a file manager component for ensuring that the format independent document is created in a specified location.